THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The number of employees of Global Trust Bank (GTB) on the date of its merger i.e. 14.8.2004 with Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) were 1235 and all of them were absorbed in OBC as per the relevant provisions of the scheme.

(b) As per Regulations 3(4) and 4 of Oriental Bank of Commerce (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995, the pension regulations are applicable to the employees who join the service of the Bank on or after the notified date *i.e.* 29.9.1995 and is optional for the employee who joins the bank at the age of 35 years or more on or after the notified date. The case of employees of the erstwhile GTB for an option to pension in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

(c) Does not arise.

**Irrigated agricultural Land**

*139. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total non-cultivable land in the country, the average percentage of irrigated agricultural land all over the country, the total agricultural land and out of this total land under irrigation;

(b) the details of programme, with target to enhance this percentage;

(c) whether Government have decided to make nearly 90,000 hectares additional agricultural land irrigable by March, 2009;

(d) if so, the details thereof and how much expenditure would be incurred;

(e) whether any time-bound annual target has been fixed;

(f) whether any survey has been undertaken to find new sources of water for increasing irrigation potential; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) According to the Land Use Statistics for 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculure, total non-cultivable land in the country is 122.35 million hectare. Total agricultural land in the country is estimated to be 183.39 million hectare out of which gross irrigated area is 76.86 million hectare i.e. 41.9% of total agricultural land.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects pimarily rests with the State Governments. However, Government of India povides Central assistance to the State Governments for completion of on-going irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Further, a pilot scheme titled "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been approved by Government of India in January, 2005. The objective of the scheme is to restore and augment storage capacity of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. Government of India also provides support under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management Programme (CAD&WM) with a view to bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and potential utilized. The National Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government also stipulates significant enhancement in public investment in irrigation.

(c) and (d) Creation of additional irrigation potential of ten million hectare over a period of four years (2005-09) is one of the components of "Bharat Nirman" programme which includes (i) 4.2 million hectare (Mha) through completion of identified on-going major and medium projects, (ii) 3.8 Mha by minor irrigation schemes, (iii) 1.0 Mha by enhancing the utilization by extension, renovation and modernisation (ERM) of major and medium projects and (iv) 1.0 Mha through repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies and ERM of minor irrigation schemes. The total fund requirement has been estimated to be Rs. 68,500 crore.

(e) Yes, Sir. The tentative annual targets for creation of irrigation potential proposed under "Bharat Nirman" are as under:

| Year | Target (In million hectare) |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1.90 |
| 2006-07 | 2.40 |
| 2007-08 | 2.85 |
| 2008-09 | 2.85 |

(f) and (g) The average annual water availability of the country has been estimated to be 1869 billion cubic metre. However, there are considerable temporal and spatial variations. The utilizabie water resources have been estimated to be 1123 billion cubic metre. As the average annual water availability remains unchanged, various steps have been taken for meeting the increasing irrigation and other demands including improvement of efficiency of irrigation system. The Government has also taken up studies to examine the possibility of utilization of surplus flood water after giving due consideration to all related issues with a view to augmenting the resource availability in water deficit regions.

**Renovation of Jamadarpali airstrip**

*140. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jamadarpali airstrip near Sambalpur is in shambles;

(b) whether this airport has become a necessity considering fast growth of Rengali-Jharsuguda corridor and fast industrialization of its surroundings;

(c) whether Government propose to repair and renovate the airport to boost economy of this backward region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (d) Jamadarpali airstrip belongs to State Government of Orissa.

Since there is no request so far received from any scheduled airline operators to operate through this airstrip, Airports Authority of India have no plans/proposals to repair and renovate the airfield at present.